

T O R R A N C E

Press Release
Police Department

“Follow-Home” Robbery Suspect Arrest after Vehicle Pursuit

On January 7, 2009, at approximately 0145 hours, Torrance Police Department Patrol Officers responded to the 4400 block of Pacific Coast Highway (Willow Tree Apartments parking lot) regarding a robbery that just occurred. The robbery was a “follow-home” style from the Normandie Casino in Gardena, CA. The suspect used bodily force to take the victim’s purse and fled the area.

Responding patrol units attempted to investigate a vehicle that was driving in the immediate area and the vehicle fled from Patrol officers. Torrance Police units pursued the vehicle and acquired the assistance of a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s helicopter through the duration of the vehicle pursuit. The pursuit terminated with the suspect crashing into a trash receptacle in the 16900 block of Vermont Avenue in the City of Gardena. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident. During the investigation the suspect was identified by the victim and the victim’s purse was recovered.

The suspect was identified as Earnest Alexander, age 41, of Hawthorne California. Alexander is being charged with Robbery (211 PC), Evading (2800.1(a) CVC), and a Parole Violation related to a Federal investigation at this time. Torrance Investigators are working closely with Orange County / LA County agencies to see if Alexander is involved with / responsible for a recent series of similar crimes in the region.

Torrance Investigators are looking to the public’s help for any information related to this incident or any similar incidents. Please contact the Torrance Police Department Detectives Division at 310 618-5570.

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Public Information Officer
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